Claims

1. Physical layer circuit for an interface circuit to a first communication bus (7), the physical layer circuit comprising a buffer memory (22) for node-ID packets received via a bridge circuit from a second communication bus (8), **characterised in that** the physical layer circuit (21) comprises configuration means (24) that enable to either configure the physical layer circuit (21) as a bridge portal physical layer circuit supporting the bridge functionality by buffering said node-ID packets in said buffer memory (22) or else configure the physical layer circuit as a standard physical layer circuit not supporting bridge functionality by disabling the buffering of said node-ID packets.

2. Physical layer circuit according to claim 1, the configuration means (24) comprising a configuration register having one or more register places dedicated to the enabling or disabling of the node-ID packet buffering.

3. Physical layer circuit according to claim 2, wherein the configuration register is a read/write register.

4. Physical layer circuit according to claim 2 or 3, wherein a pin (CON) of the physical layer circuit (21) is connected with the register place dedicated to the enabling or disabling of the node-ID packet buffering.

5. Physical layer circuit according to claim 4, wherein the pin (CON) of the physical layer circuit is positioned at a place where a standard physical layer circuit not supporting the bridge functionality has a power supply pin, namely ground pin (AGND) or voltage supply pin

(AV_{DD}).

6. Physical layer circuit according to one of the previous claims, wherein the first and second communication bus (7, 8) is an IEEE1394 bus and the bridge (9) is a wireless bridge that performs wireless communication according to the Hiperlan/2 standard.

7. Physical layer circuit according to one of the previous claims, comprising a number of n ports (23) for the first communication bus (7), $n \in [2,3, \ldots]$.

8. Interface device for a first communication bus (7) comprising a physical layer circuit (21) according to claim 7, wherein said physical layer circuit (21) is configured as a bridge portal physical layer circuit with the buffering of node-ID packets being enabled, **characterised in that** at maximum n-1 of the ports (23) for the first communication bus (7) are connected to corresponding sockets for bus cable plug insertion.